Engaging Stakeholders in Cross-disciplinary and Cross-sector Work:
International Lessons about Diversity and Inclusivity for Responsible Collaboration, Integration, and Learning

43rd Annual Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference
Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Navigating Between Generosity and Rigor
Host: Southern Utah University
Thursday-3:30-4:50 Panel (US-Mountain Time)
Workshop Team

• Machiel Keestra  
  Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Diversity Officer at Faculty of Science, University of Amsterdam

• Julie Thompson Klein  
  Professor of Humanities Emerita at Wayne State University and International Research Affiliate in Transdisciplinarity Lab I USYS at ETH-Zurich

• Ulli Vilsmaier  
  Associate Professor at Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany and founder of the Responsive Research Collective

• Juliana Merçon  
  Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones en Educación, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico; Coordinator of the action group on interculturality and sustainability

• Michael O’Rourke  
  Director of the Center for Interdisciplinarity, Professor of Philosophy, and Faculty in AgBio Research, Michigan State University
Our Foci (Where we come from)

- Exploring the current heterogeneity of inter- and trans-disciplinarity, amplified by greater stakeholder involvement in research (Klein)

- Creating spaces for collaborative research between academic and societal domains, fostering integration and involvement (Vilsmaier)

- Finding an optimum in diversity of perspectives in interdisciplinary work, to avoid team tunnel vision and team incoherence (Keestra)

- Producing the common good through epistemic and ethical-political care in trans-disciplinarity (Merçon)

- Working with community partners to develop and manage a trans-disciplinary, team-based graduate education program (O’Rourke)
Guiding Questions for This Session
(Where we are headed)

• How can we expand conceptions of interdisciplinary collaboration and realize it in a way that responds to challenges of diversity and inclusion?

• How can we gain strategies and methods for creating interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial collaboration spaces and building student capacity to work with stakeholders?

• How can we expand criteria of success from traditional measures and metrics to broader range of indicators across sectors and cultures?
Our Approach: A Structured *Polylogue*

*A polylogue* is a form of dialogue involving more than two people aimed at understanding different meanings. In the connotation of intercultural philosophy we follow, it is a search for overlaps in concepts, including moving beyond Euro-, American-, or Sino-centrism.

The minimal rule:

“Wherever possible, look for transcultural overlapping of philosophical concepts, since it is probable that well-founded theses have developed in more than one cultural tradition”


The Three Stages of Our *Polylogue*
Collaboration - Integration - Learning
Stage 1 of Polylogue: Collaboration

What is of prime concern or interest to you about collaboration in the context of engaging stakeholders in crossdisciplinary and cross-sector work emphasizing diversity and inclusion?

• Instructions on using Jamboard, with link in Chat
• Panelists’ round-table responses to Stage 1 question
• Audience participants’ post-it notes on first Jamboard during their discussion
• Open discussion of panelists’ and participants’ responses
Stage 2 of Polylogue: Integration

What is of prime concern or interest to you about integration in the context of engaging stakeholders in crossdisciplinary and cross-sector work emphasizing diversity and inclusion?

• Instructions on using Jamboard, with link in Chat
• Panelists’ round-table responses to Stage 2 question
• Audience participants’ post-it notes on Jamboard during their discussion
• Open discussion of panelists’ and participants’ responses
Stage 3 of Polylogue: Learning

What is of prime concern or interest to you about Learning in the context of *engaging stakeholders in crossdisciplinary and cross-sector work emphasizing diversity and inclusion*?

- Instructions on using Jamboard, with link in Chat
- Panelists’ round-table responses to Stage 3 question
- Audience participants’ post-it notes on Jamboard during their discussion
- Open discussion of panelists’ and participants’ responses
Closing Reflections

Thanks for your participating
Bedankt voor uw deelname!
Vielen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme!
Gracias por Su participación!

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